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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy God, known to us in countless ways, we seek to magnify Your glorious Name.

Lord, You are worthy of our praise, for You have been our help in ages past. You are our hope for all of our tomorrows.

Remind us all that we are temporary creatures who long for a sense of permanence. Inspire our Senators with the knowledge that You are changeless and that they can trust that Your mercies will endure.

May our lawmakers continue to depend on You for the vindication of every just cause and for the forgiveness of every sin.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, toward the end of the legislative session in Texas, Texas Democrats in the statehouse staged a dramatic walkout, denying a quorum and preventing the Texas Republican majority from passing one of the most restrictive voting laws in this country.

Texas Republicans could come back and reconsider the law in a special session, but the extraordinary measures taken by the State Democrats reflect the extraordinary damage of the voting law.

Texas Republicans were on the verge of passing several alarming restrictions: reducing polling hours, eliminating drive-through voting and 24-hour voting centers. The proposed law would have made it easier for a judge to overturn an election and push back the start of Sunday voting—a measure that seemed designed to interfere with voting drives held by Black churches.

Texas already has some of the strictest voting procedures in the country. The additional effort, in the wake of Donald Trump's Big Lie, directly tar-

gets all the ways poorer, younger, non-White, and typically Democratic voters cast their ballots.

Of course, Texas is only the most recent flashpoint in the nationwide effort by Republican legislators to contract Americans' right to vote, as you well know, Mr. President.

The tide of Republican voter suppression laws is a direct assault on our democracy and could disenfranchise tens of millions of Americans.

Today, I am proud to say, at the Democratic caucus lunch we will host the group of Texas Democrats who bravely fought the voter suppression law in their State. The topic of our discussion will be about how to come together to protect voting rights not just in Texas but across the country.

Next week, the Senate will consider major voting rights legislation. Congress must take action to defend our democracy.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the President's foreign trip, President Biden's first foreign trip has projected a welcome sight to the world: an American President embracing our allies and bringing them together to confront our common adversaries.

Already, the President's visit to G7 has yielded results: a commitment to counter China's rapacious economic policies and unwinding a longstanding dispute over tariffs and trade with the European Union.

Now after meeting with our allies at both the G7 and at the NATO summit in Brussels, the President will meet tomorrow with Vladimir Putin. From the occupation in Crimea to violating political human rights within its own borders, to interfering in democratic elections across the Western world, to imprisoning those who expose his brutal, undemocratic regime, Vladimir Putin has spent the past decade interfering and destabilizing the world order.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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